



Senate Aging and Youth Committee

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Summary SB 704 PN 802

This legislation amends the Public Welfare Code to create and license an entity called an assisted living residence.

Currently, facilities which provide services ranging from personal care to skilled nursing are either licensed as personal care homes or nursing facilities. An assisted living residence would provide a level of service between the two.

The bill places responsibility for the licensing and oversight of assisted living residences in the Department of Public Welfare which currently regulates personal care homes. It extends certain rights and requirements of personal care homes to assisted living residences. A separate screening process is established to ensure that a consumer's needs and desires are addressed. The bill also stipulates that assisted living residences must demonstrate they can provide supplemental health care services safely. A personal care home may not provide supplemental health care services but may help an individual secure those services.

The measure also prohibits assisted living facilities from admitting, retaining or serving consumers with serious medical conditions. Residents requiring other specified services may be served by an assisted living residence if a determination is made that they can be provided for safely. Assisted living residences may admit and retain residents not requiring supplemental health care services or who make alternative arrangements for such services. In addition, portions of the residence may be designated for use by residents not requiring health care services.

A transitional period is established whereby homes currently operating as personal care homes may continue to offer supplemental health care services if they submit a plan demonstrating the ability to operate safely and effectively as an assisted living residence. Additionally, the bill permits personal care home administrators and direct care staff to act as assisted living residence administrators and direct care staff unless the department establishes other qualifications.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect in 60 days.